The Lions' Pride

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We the People

By Mirna Candé
Contributing Writer

You would not expect it, but Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were recently on campus. Their cardboard likenesses were propped up in Kirk Hall on Sept. 14.

With the upcoming US Presidential elections in Nov., the Constitution Day was a perfect occasion to soak students in the atmosphere of politics so that they could voice their opinion on the White House Race. Hosted by the Department of Social Sciences, the event took place in Kirk Hall rooms 123 and 124 from 6 to 8 pm.

As soon as students arrived, they were invited to sign in and register for door prizes. The plan for the event was as follows: Take the Constitution quiz, visit party representatives, watch funny video clips from the election year, snap some photos with cardboard presidential candidates and post it on social media (#SLUConstitutionDay16), watch live panel discussions from political party reps, visit Pi Sigma Alpha's registration table, and, finally, cast a vote for president.

Students came for several reasons. Many of them were only there for the extra credit. Alexandra Bonnell, a sophomore and hospitality management major, came to the event to get a clear understanding for whom she wishes to vote.

Romario Williams, a freshman in majoring in computer science, said that as an international student, he expects to learn more about the Constitution and the US democratic system.

"Jamaica, where I am from, is based on the British democratic system. It's different from the US democratic system because we do not vote directly for the Prime Minister; we elect members of parliament," said Romario. "The party that gains the most votes wins the race, and their party leader becomes the Prime Minister. So I would like to know if you vote directly for the president, if not, how that works."

When the panel took place, it was interesting to see how students were involved in the discussion. They had tons of questions for the panelists, particularly for the Republican Party representative.

"Do you expect the two parties to maintain a friendship after elections?"

"What are the Parties regulations regarding racial tension in the country?"

At the end of the event, Mr. Frank Orlando, the political science instructor, gave his opinion on the upcoming elections.

"There is a lot of passion about it. As you can see tonight, students were very excited," said Orlando. "The fact that the candidates aren't liked, it means that people will be going to the poll because they will want to vote against the person they don't like rather than the person they do like."

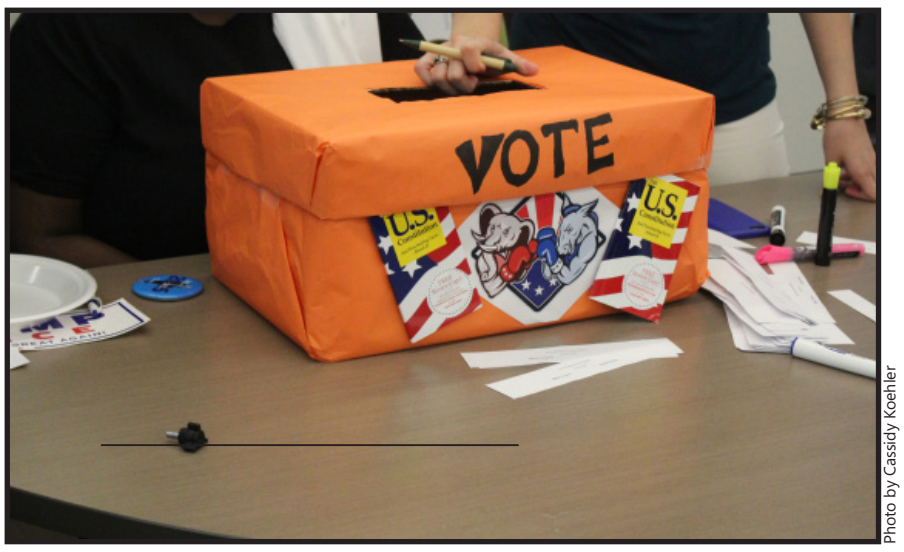


Photo by Cassidy Koehler

After learning more about each candidate, students were encouraged to cast their vote for the next president of the United States.

Orlando believes the purpose of having such an event on campus is for the school to get more political, and to have students share more of their opinions.

"Even though it gets a little rough, that's okay, because it means that people are getting engaged," he said. "I'd rather have people getting engaged than people asleep walking around and not knowing what's going on."

Orlando also believes that the event was successful even though they could only register eight students to vote where three students come from Pasco County and five students from other counties in Florida.

Eric Martinez, a field organizer that was the panelist for the Democrat Party, voiced his opinion on the effectiveness of the event.

"I was hoping to have the opportunity to speak more one on one with the supporters," he said. "I know that I shouldn't be expecting that because there are other representatives also competing trying to speak with the students, but I think that it was pretty well. Students had the opportunity to see how the parties differ and what the details are."

To top it all off, the winner of the Constitution quiz was Kingsley Nwosu, a sophomore in cyber security. The results of the poll came out with 47 votes for Hillary Clinton and ten votes for Donald Trump, for a total of 57 votes.

Sharing Stories with the World

By Michayne Stoney
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 21, the Dear World college tour came to Saint Leo University. The two-day project was an emotional and inspirational experience.

Dear World originally started in New Orleans, LA in 2009 after Hurricane Katrina struck. Here, people began to write their love notes to the city on their skin, and this allowed them to express their thoughts and feelings of hope, struggle, and longing. Dear World is described as a business, art project, and social experiment all in one. Through this project, the creators have the ability to show that there are more things that brings everyone together than keeps us apart.

Saint Leo students, faculty, and staff were united as they courageously shared their handwritten messages to the world. Though it was an emotional experience, it was good to see Saint Leo come together as one family and share the moment. In an interview, Joshua Bartholomew, president of Saint Leo's student government union, gave insight on the decision that was made to invite the Dear World tour to the campus.

"Dear World has traveled across the country asking people to share their stories with messages on their arms. SGU decided to invite the Dear World tour to our campus because we saw the major impact on college campuses across the country. Our primary purposes were to improve the relationships with students, faculty, and staff while celebrating the stories of our University community." Bartholomew said.

Similarly, many students enjoyed their presence on campus and thought it was a great effort to unify the school community. Destiny Bailey, a sophomore, majoring in biology said that she realized now more than ever that she is not alone in her struggles.

"The tour not only allowed me to realize that human struggle is universal, but it reassured me that no matter what, there is a strong support system here on campus. There is always somebody who cares. It also encouraged me to be determined, and never to lose hope despite my circumstances."

The event on campus was a major success. According to Bartholomew, "More than 400 people came out to be a part of the Dear World Tour at Saint Leo. It was amazing to see how much support we had from the faculty and staff. The highlight of the photoshoot was when Dr. Lennox and Fritz the mascot wrote the Saint Leo core values on their arms."

The Student Government Union also noted that the event's success could be seen around the campus even after the event concluded. According to the president of SGU, this success has set the tone for the future events which will be sponsored by the organization.

"What made this event a huge success was the support SGU received from our sponsors, the President's Staff, Communication's office and faculty and staff groups," said Bartholomew.

Continued on page 6.

Editorial

Is Automated Grading the Future of Schooling?

By Niclas Bez
Contributing Writer

Automated Essay Scoring (AES) is an emerging area of assessment technology that is gaining the attention of many educators and policy leaders. It involves the training of computer engines to rate essays by considering both the mechanics and content of the writing. Even though it is not currently being practiced or even tested in a wide-scale manner in some classrooms, the scoring of essays by computers is fueling debate leading to the need for further independent research in order to help inform decisions on how this technology should be handled.

Most AES systems were initially developed for summative writing assessments in large-scale, high-stakes situations such as graduate admissions tests (GMAT). However, the most recent developments have expanded the potential application of AES to formative assessment at the classroom level, where students can receive immediate, specific feedback on their writing and can still be monitored and assisted by their teacher.

In classes such as math or accounting, these automated grading tools are already very common and take away a lot of work from the teachers. In many instances, these programs were highly criticized because it only allows a right or wrong answer without giving partial credit for right steps towards the answer. Also, the teachers do not get to know the student's work as well anymore, which limits them in their ability to help each student with his or her individual weaknesses.

Numerous software companies have developed programs for written assessments that can predict essay scores by using correlations of the intrinsic qualities. First, the system needs to be trained on what to look for. This is done by entering the results from a number of essays written on the same prompt or question that are marked by human raters. The system is then trained to examine a new essay on the same prompt and predict the score that a human rater would give. Some programs claim to mark for both style and content, while others focus on just one or the other.

"I would not like automated grading in schools because I feel more comfortable with my professor seeing my essay in person and marking up my mistakes. There can also be a malfunction with an automated grading system that slows the grading system down," said sophomore Alexander Yoo.

"Depending on which professor you have and for the type of class, it may limit the relationship with your professor. I personally like to talk directly to my professor about what I should edit rather than an automated grading system. By having an automated grading system, it will be easier for professors but will lack in teachers informing the student about extra content and creativity. The automated grading essay can't possibly have everything a professor has to say because something may come up during the moment," continued Yoo.

In terms of their reliability, the technology company Phillips cautions, to date, that there seems to be a lack of independent comparative research on the effectiveness of the different AES engines for specific purposes and for use with specific populations. While it would appear that one basis of comparison might be the degree of agreement of specific AES engines with human raters, this also needs to be scrutinized as different prompts, expertise of raters, and other factors can cause different levels of rater agreement.

AES has great potential. It can be more objective than human scoring because the computer will not suffer from fatigue or favoritism. Assessment criteria are applied exactly the same way whether it is the first or the thousandth essay marked on the same prompt. The potential for immediate feedback is also considered positively when AES is used as a formative assessment tool because it allows students to work at their own level and at their own pace receiving feedback on specific problem areas.

This rapid feedback also allows for more frequent testing leading to greater learning opportunities for students. By using computers to grade essays, the marking load of teachers is reduced, creating more time for professional collaboration and student-specific instruction. Since computers are being used more often as a learning tool in the classroom, computer-based testing places assessment in the same milieu as learning and provides more accessible statistical data to inform instruction.

Automated essay grading certainly has its critics, many of whom refute studies defending the technology and argue that students will never get a truly fair essay grade from a computer. For example, one group called Professionals against Machine Scoring of Student Essays in High-Stakes Assessment has collected more than 4,100 signatures protesting automated grading from educators and others across the country.

Continued online.

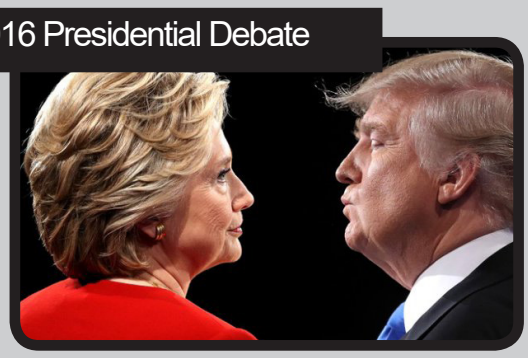
Check us out online at www.prideonlinedotnet.wordpress.com

Saint Leo's Got Talent

Photo by Victoria Markou

Students of all years and backgrounds tried out for the Talent Show, which will be held on Oct. 8. Read this article to learn more about some of the acts as well as the judges.

2016 Presidential Debate



Picture from @CNN

The first of the three 2016 presidential debates between Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump was broadcasted Sept. 26. This debate between the two presidential candidates was filled with controversy. To learn more, go online and read the full article.

An Evening of Music

Photo by Chloe-Ana Braidy

A musical performance put on by members of Saint Leo's own faculty was held on Sept. 20 during the annual event known as the Fall Faculty Recital. Read this article to learn more about how this particular performance went.

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Letters To The Editor

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Campus News

VP Debate Showdown Oct. 3

The debate will take place in the SCC from 6 pm.

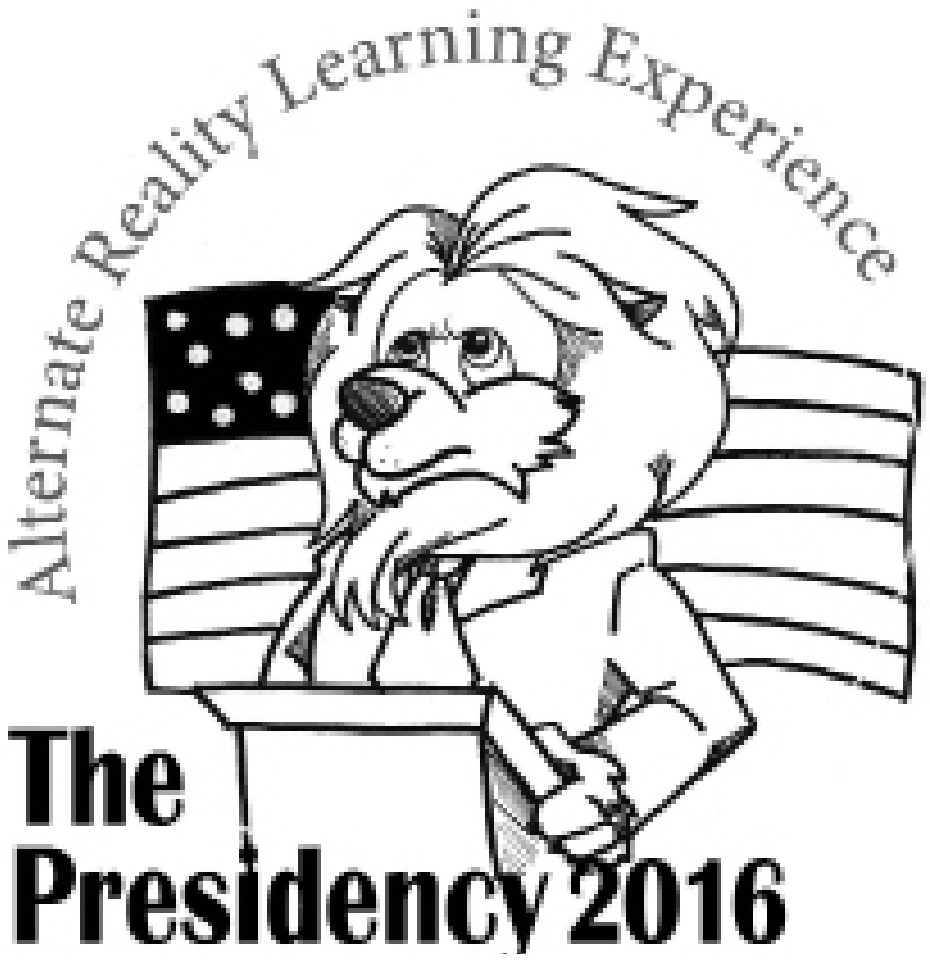
Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate, Angela Johnson

Angela Johnson, mother of one, born in Miami, Florida on Aug. 24, 1975 to Joe and Elizabeth Brown. She is the youngest of four siblings (Carl, Abigale, Ariel and Joseph). She went on to attend Yale University, graduated in four years with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Criminal Justice. After receiving her B.A. in Political Science, she continued on to get her Law degree at Yale University. Eventually, she went on to run for State Legislator of Florida and obtained that position from 2004 to 2012. After being State Legislator for nine years, she went on to now being Senator of Florida. She has a strong belief in her faith and family. She feels that men and women should be equal in all things. People should feel free to practice whatever faith, beliefs, or sexual preference they want to have. She also feels that the government should be here for the people and help care and protect the people. When it comes up to foreign policies, she feels that we should welcome people from different cultures of life into the U.S. as we are known for being the most multi-cultural country. However, we also need to be more firm and thorough in the background checks that we do, to make sure we are allowing the right people in.

Republican Vice Presidential Candidate, Caterina Castillo

Caterina Castillo was raised by upper-middle class parents in Atlanta during the end of the civil rights movement. She is a first generation Italian-American and only child. She graduated valedictorian of her high school class and went on to Saint Leo University to study political science and criminal justice. She graduated Saint Leo with a 4.0 and she went to Georgetown to study Law. She received her law degree and doctoral degree in international relations from Georgetown. Upon graduation she obtained employment working for the CIA with a focus primarily on Russia and Eastern European Countries. During the course of working for the CIA, she had a natural affinity for Russian culture and its language, which her supervisors noted and put her in the running for a post in Russia, never expecting to become ambassador. However, during her time in Russia, a scandal broke out with the sitting ambassador of Russia and he was removed from his position. She was recommended to fill the position. Upon that recommendation President Bush appointed her, making her the youngest and first female ambassador to Russia. Early on the Russians were not happy with the appointment, but decided to give her a chance. After a few months as ambassador, they realized she was truly admired and was respectful of their culture in a way that her predecessor was not. She held her position for 6 years and is now running for vice president.

Disclaimer: The following story, photos, and accompanying items are fictionalized and are part of Saint Leo University's Alternate Reality Learning Experience (ARLE). The events described did not occur. The characters are fictional and any resemblance to any person living or dead is purely coincidental.



Health

Concerns for Zika Virus are Still on a Rise

By Rebecca Hugh
Contributing Writer

Photo from The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

Scientists are working diligently to develop a cure for the Zika Virus.

On Jul. 29, there were two confirmed reported cases of the Zika virus in the Wynwood area, north of downtown Miami. From then, the risk of being infected is a growing concern for many Florida residents. The Zika virus is spread mostly through the bite of an infected mosquito. And due to this type of mosquito species, it is attracted to the already hot tropical climate of Florida and is growing in number, increasing the likelihood of being infected.

In order to keep the public informed, the Florida Department of Health (FHD) releases daily updates, which includes in-state Zika case counts. According to the FHD, the total of infected cases is 835. Of that 835, 660 are travel-related, 79 are non-travel related, 86 are cases involving pregnant women, and 10 are out-of-state cases (not Florida residents).

Aware of the recent outbreaks, Mr. Francis Orlando, instructor of political science at Saint Leo University, took it upon himself to conduct an online survey about the growing concern of the Zika virus. Through Aug. 14-18 Orlando conducted the poll enlisting 1,500 Floridians, which comprised of a demographic representation of the population.

According to the Saint Leo University Polling Institute survey, more than three-quarters of the 1,500 Floridians surveyed were alarmed about the virus. Statistics taken from the poll show that 79.3 percent of participants were "very" or "somewhat" concerned, 11.1 percent were "somewhat unconcerned," 7.5 percent were "not at all concerned," and 2.1 percent were unsure. What Orlando opted to get from the survey conducted was to raise awareness of the virus and make the views of the perceived threat known to the general public.

"The Zika virus is not new in its existence. It's presence in Florida does not scare me," said Junior Daniela Alonso.

Andrina Pierre, sophomore, however, feels differently. She explains that her growing concern lies in the mosquitos liking to the tropical weather of the state and the large number of lakes and water bodies in Florida that allow the Zika infected mosquitos to breed.

Yegeta Telila, an international sophomore student, was very vocal in his concerns about the virus. "I am concerned, because the method of transmission is different to that of any virus that causes epidemics. Because it is transmitted through mosquitos, and as we all know there are a lot of mosquitos in Florida, there is no way to identify which mosquito is carrying the virus" he said. "And, since we get stung by mosquitos on a daily basis, the chance of us knowing we are infected until we actually are in the latter stages of infection, is actually high. And, considering the effects it might have on my latter children and on my health itself then there is a legitimate reason to be concerned."

While compiling results from the poll, Orlando consulted with Dr. Cheryl Clauson, an assistant professor of biology at Saint Leo University. She explained there is nothing to worry about, as long as people are healthy and are not thinking about bearing children. However, if one is thinking about bearing children, one should consider the birth defects, which are one of the many concerns with Zika.

Clauson explained that the virus affects the neural progenitor cells, which are important for the development of the brain cells. The virus causes the cells to stop dividing and kill the cells that have already differentiated (cells divided into specialized cells). The virus also affects the immune response so there is no way of replacing the cells that have already died. This results in the birth defects of babies.

She also further explained her personal views on the negative effects of the virus, if it is not controlled locally. She believes the virus will affect Florida's tourism industry, regular travels, the population, and the local economy. With the virus prevalent in the state, travel is restricted and travelers restrict themselves from visiting certain parts of Florida. This affects not only business but also the desire of new, previous and current tourists who normally boosts the economic growth of the state. Clauson also stated that there could also be a population age gap, with women opting to wait to have children.

A vaccine, however, could be developed in the future. According to NBC news, there was a positive result in researchers' recent test in monkeys. Researchers at Harvard's Beth Israel Hospital and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research have developed three experimental vaccines. Due to the urgency of the situation, one of the three experimental vaccines will progress to clinical trials, with hopes for testing in people by Oct.

With the release of the information from the poll, people will be more aware of what they themselves can do to prevent infection. And, local governments can set aside funding for eradication of and prevention of the mosquitos carrying the virus.

Photo from The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issues travel alerts for areas where the Zika virus is spreading; one of the areas is now Miami-Dade County, Flordia. Therefore, pregnant women are advise to consult with their doctors if planning to travel there.

National

Wells Fargo Cheats its Customers out of $20 Million

By Randawnique Coakley
Worldly Education Editor

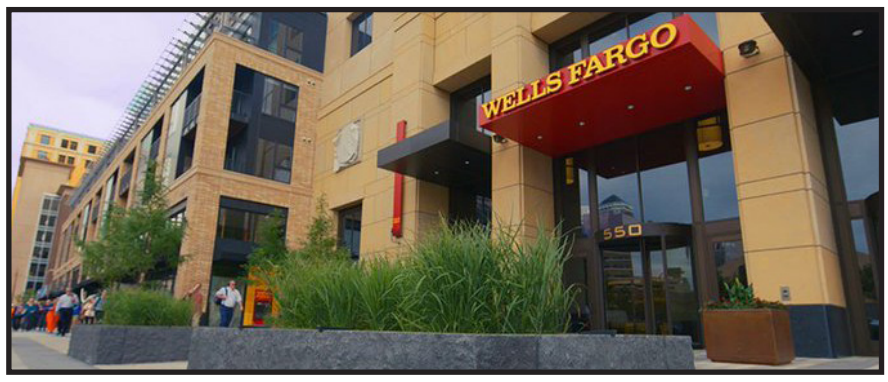


Photo from @WellsFargoNews

"Some payments have already been made; others will be sent in the months," according to CFPB.

Wells Fargo has been fined for fraudulent activity for its employees creating about 2 million fraudulent accounts, cheating their customers out of $20 million.

Wells Fargo admitted that there was illegal activity going on through a release of a statement on Sept. 8, admitting fault and apologizing for the creation of fraudulent accounts: "Wells Fargo is committed to putting our customers' interests first 100 percent of the time, and we regret and take responsibility for any instances where customers may have received a product that they did not request."

They are being fined from three government agencies, so far. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is one of these agencies and their $100 million dollar fine is "the largest penalty the CFPB has ever imposed," according to CFPB Director Richard Cordray in a press release. Also, according to a report that the CFPB issued to customers who were affected, CFPB stated "The historic $100 million fine we imposed on Wells Fargo is in addition to the money the bank must pay back to harmed consumers." The other government agencies who are fining Wells Fargo are Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and City and County of Los Angeles, who are penalizing the bank $50 million and $30 million respectively.

This adds up to $185 million that Wells Fargo has to pay in fines alone; however, this seems like merely pocket change for Wells Fargo. In fact, the company reported to earn $5.6 billion in the second quarter of 2016 alone and the company, according to Chicago Tribune, made a profit of "more than $20 billion in 2015." On top of the profit bank is earning, the executives are already receiving hefty bonus payments.

The CEO of Wells Fargo, John Stumpf, is worth more than $200 million in Wells Fargo's stock, according to Chicago Tribune. Another one of the executives who is receiving a lump sum is Carrie Tolstedt. She oversaw Wells Fargo during this fraudulence and announced her retirement earlier this year, and she is expected to be paid about $125 million as a "retirement package," including thousands of shares of Wells Fargo stock, according to the Chicago Tribune.

However, for those seeking repercussions from Wells Fargo's higher ups, there is talk about "clawing back" for Tolstedt's millions in bonuses in particular, according to Dr. Ricky Scott, a professor in the Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics. "Claw back" is essentially the recovery of funds already distributed, and the idea of "clawing back" was heavily suggested in the financial crisis due to business executives, who received millions dollars in funds, whose companies lost a significant amount of money or went bankrupt.

And for those desiring even bigger retribution for the company itself, the company is reportedly suffering from a drop of billions of dollars in market capitalization, probably due to the loss of trust from its customers. The bank was deemed "the highest valuable bank" with its market capitalization surpassing other banks in recent years because Wells Fargo was once reaching $300 billion in market capitalization in July 2015, according to the Wall Street Journal. However, as of Sept. 13, CNN Money reports that Wells Fargo, which, has dropped 6% in market gap to $237 billion, resulting in JP Morgan Chase bank surpassing Wells Fargo as the highest valuable bank. That drop in market cap is certainly costing the company; therefore, even though the fines and lawsuits may not harm Wells Fargo's money, certainly the loss in business from customers will hurt it quite a bit as shown by the market cap.

"Banks need trust and they lost a lot of peoples' trust, and this could be a long term bad effect," said Scott about the situation of Wells Fargo.

This bank created so many fraudulent accounts without being detected until recently. However, once a spotlight was put onto the Wells Fargo, some may wonder what the aftermath for the customers and the employees may be.

"It's going to have a huge impact but I don't think we're going to have many victims who lost more than a few hundred dollars. And of course they are getting that few hundred dollars back and then some," Scott mentioned.

A senate hearing was set to be on Sept. 20 for Wells Fargo, according to Scott. Stumpf seemed to be the executive in the forefront of the hearing and seemed to avoid many of the questions asked by giving little explanation or no explanation at all when he answered. In fact, Fortune reports that "facing the Banking Committee, Stumpf was stumped by the most basic questions. How could this pattern of corrosive misconduct of two million unauthorized new customer accounts have continued over more than five years despite public reports? Why was the problem surfaced by The Los Angeles Times before internal discover? Why has there been no independent investigation?" The senate hearing, the fines and drop in market cap is among the many things that Wells Fargo has to face due to this scandal.

"Approximately 5,300 employees have been fired because they were opening accounts without permission from shareholders among other things," said Scott. "Most of these people had preexisting accounts with Wells Fargo, say if they had a checking account and then they would open a home equity line or give them a credit card or open a savings account. Actually some of the people had minimum paying fees and going down minimum balance and that cost some people some money."

"I did find out the first investigation was a local one in LA, three years ago. And so they really should have known, seems like to me. The managers should have said this is happening local let's make sure this isn't happening anywhere else but they didn't do that."

This illegal activity came about due to the large amount of pressure placed on the employees from the CEO down. According to Scott, this chain of pressure to increase sales goals started from the upper level and continues to the regional manager, then the lower level to the branch manager to the workers at the single branch. This pressure extended to incentives of getting bonuses if sales were increased and even went so far as to threaten to fire people if they did not reach the sales goal. In fact, according to Scott, "some of the managers were actually showing lower level people how to do this [engage in the fraudulent activity]."

"If you are compared to other branches [that] are cheating - well, if you don't cheat, you're going to be the low person, and you're going to be the one that gets fired. It became kind of an epidemic. It's kind of like baseball when the other players are using steroids and hitting 40 home runs and you're not using steroids and hitting 25 homeruns; you're going to end up on the bench."

"From the CEO down, I think there is blame to go around… There were probably people who didn't know this was [happening]," said Scott. "It really does go down to the individual employee; there were 5,300 employees that was pressure to do something they weren't able to do: increase their sales to a certain level. That pressure should have been there, but on the other hand, there really is no excuse to doing something unethical or illegal. And so that 5,300 people deserved to get fired."

Wells Fargo may seem like the only bank creating this overbearing sales goals for its employees; however, almost every other bank tries to get their customers to open new accounts from saving to checking to money equity and more. It's called "relationship building," according to Scott. In fact, many other banks have similar incentives that Wells Fargo has, encouraging employees to invite as many customers into having as many different accounts as possible. And this can be mutually beneficial for customers, avoiding to have multiple accounts in different banks, if done legally, of course.

"We believes Wells Fargo isn't the only one doing this," said Scott. "Certainty, the same incentive plans could result in this. Almost every other bank I am sure is taking a look at this to make sure this isn't happening now. Wells Fargo, with the good reputation they had - if they were doing this, there's a good chance other people were doing it too."

Wells Fargo is certainly trying to find ways to prevent this fraudulent activity from ever happening again. In fact, Wells Fargo, according to their website, will end sales goals effective on Jan. 1 of 2017. This effort to end sales goals is probably an effort to gain favor of their customers and gain their trust again.

"Our objective has always been and continues to be to meet our customers' financial needs and drive customer satisfaction," said Stumpf, on the Wells Fargo story website. "We are eliminating product sales goals because we want to make certain our customers have full confidence that our retail bankers are always focused on the best interests of customers."

Some may wonder if there is any other way to prevent this from happening at any other bank, especially for those banks that encourage its employee to relationship build and to push for their customers to open multiple accounts.

Regulations could possibly be tightened; however, this may prevent other banks from relationship building. "We want banks to try to sell their services but we don't want this," said Scott.

It is highly likely that some victims notified Wells Fargo to inform the bank that they had charges which were not incurred; however, the bank probably insisted that it was mistake. However, Scott suggested that a "simple solution" would be having a "whistle blower hotline." This way if there is an incident and it occurs multiple times from the same bank, an investigation done can possibly be done.

However, according to Scott, even this solution can possibly be an issue because if every call received is investigated, the bank might actually make a mistake. Also, if resources were provided to investigate every incident, this would eat at tax-paying dollars. However, some people may think some type of regulation needs to be enforced. This hypothetical regulation could prevent other banks' executives and managers from placing pressure onto employees to meet sales goals, thus preventing fraudulent activity as large as this from happening.

"Management created a situation where this could happen, but it couldn't have happened unless the people chose to do something wrong and they knew it was wrong," said Scott. "And that's a valuable lesson for our students, I think, because, in the working world, sometimes you are pressured to do something wrong and you need to think about the consequences. I always urge people to the ethical thing and sometimes that might mean losing your job."

Campus News

Continued from page 1.

Students are encouraged to look out for the portraits which should be available within the next two weeks. The Student Government Union is also partnering with Student Affairs to search for areas on campus to place framed collages to remember this event on campus. Additionally, all the pictures will be posted on Channel 96 during Open House weekends and Fall Family Festival.

On Sept. 22, at 7 pm, the event culminated with a keynote speaker in the SCC boardrooms. Students were exposed to other portraits which were taken all over the world. From New Orleans, the project expanded to Boston after the series of bombings, as well as Paris after the terrorist attacks. There was also a heartwarming presentation which covered the theme of love throughout the city of New York.

Five of members of the Saint Leo community also shared their stories which were undoubtedly inspiring. These included Edson O'Neale, advisor of Student Affairs and head of Student Government Union, Tiffany Fettig, who is a campus minster, Joe Thompson, Jamilah Imani Ray, and Dean Everton who are all students at Saint Leo University.

O'Neale expounded on his quote which stated that, "There is more to me than a bathroom fight." He went more in depth, and spoke about how all his life people underestimated him, and as such, he felt like he always had to prove himself. O'Neale's was a motivational story for those present. He charged the audience never to underestimate the power they have.

Tiffany Fettig shared what her quote "I'm a mission on this earth" meant. She spoke about the influence of God in her life, and how he saved her from death in two car accidents during her college career. Since then, she has made an active transition to serving Him and has now become a campus minister here at Saint Leo.

"They wouldn't let me through the door," was what Thompson wrote.

He shared with the difficulties he faced when dealing with the family of his previous significant other, who were racist. He recalls how they blatantly disrespected him because of his skin color. He, however, has learned to move on and has since been much happier.

Ray got very emotional while sharing her story of attempted suicide. She also shared the stories relating to her depression, and issues with self-image. Her quote: "I'm glad I failed," refers to how happy she is that she survived her suicide attempt. Since coming to Saint Leo, she has found a family of support here who she truly values.

The last student speaker of the night was Everton. His presentation too was touching as he spoke about the death of his best friend, who was more like his brother. This severely affected him and led him down a road of alcohol and drug abuse. Everton, however, strongly believes that "In darkness there is light," and as such, tries to maintain an optimistic perspective for his friend who passed away.

Because of the plentiful support SGU has received, the Dear World College Tour is expected to be back on campus next year or the following year. The returning event will continue to strengthen the bond within our community and generate a spirit of excellence.

Dean Everton @ Dear World Project & Saint Leo

Joe Thompson @ Dear World Project & Saint Leo

Janet and Sean VanGuilder @ Dear World Project & Saint Leo

Breanna Koenig @ Dear World Project & Saint Leo

Jamilah Imani Ray @ Dear World Project & Saint Leo

Edson O'Neale @ Dear World Project & Saint Leo

Arts & Entertainment

Death Star: Everyone is a Super Weapon

By Nicholas Santos
Managing Editor

Since its release on Nov. 17 of last year, the Electronic Arts-published video game "Star Wars: Battlefront" has seen a lot of criticism from critics and fans alike. As an online-only multiplayer shooter, "Star Wars: Battlefront" needs to have an extremely robust amount of content to keep its players satisfied; however, the game simply didn't have this at its launch. It launched only with a minute number of game modes, planets, and playable "Hero" characters (characters from the films), especially in comparison to the last game in the "Battlefront" franchise, "Star Wars: Battlefront II." Because of this, the game was shunned by many as an inconsistent and unworthy reboot of the franchise.

In response to this, EA DICE, the developers of the "Star Wars: Battlefront" video game, have created several Downloadable Content Packs (DLC) to compensate for the game's lack of content. Currently, there are four planned DLC packs, and three have been released so far. The first, Outer Rim, is set on the planets of Sullust and Tatooine, specifically in Jabba's Palace from "Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi." The second, Bespin, takes place in Cloud City, a main location from the film "Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back." The third and latest DLC pack, Death Star, takes place both inside and outside of the Death Star, the flagship weapon of the evil Galactic Empire and a major location from "Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope."

Each DLC pack includes a number of in-game items to players who purchase it (it is available for $15 alone or for $50 as part of the Season Pass, a collection of all the DLC packs for a reduced price). These items include pieces of content such as weapons, levels, abilities, and new "Hero" characters that weren't available in the original game. In the Death Star DLC pack, the famous "Star Wars" character and best friend of Han Solo, Chewbacca, is available for play. The Trandoshan bounty hunter Bossk is also available as part of this DLC pack. New weapons from other "Star Wars" games, such as the Bryar Pistol made famous from the "Dark Forces" series, is made available through this DLC as well.

The biggest addition to this DLC pack is the Battle Station game mode, which sees to recreate the destruction of the Death Star from "A New Hope." In this mode, players, both Rebel and Imperial, will try to attack and defend with the ultimate object being to destroy and protect the Death Star, respectively. This game mode is unique in that, unlike any other game mode, Battle Station may take up to three phases to complete. In each of these phases, the Imperials must stop the Rebels from completing an objective. In the first phase of the game, the Rebels must destroy an Imperial Star Destroyer; in the second phase, the rebels must escort R2-D2 from one end of the Death Star to the other while inside of it; and in the third phase, the Rebels must complete the famous Death Star trench run and destroy the Death Star. If the Rebels succeed at all three of these phases, they win the game. However, if the Imperials succeed in stopping the Rebels during any of the three phases, the Imperials win the game.

The Battle Station game mode, is, in theory, a very interesting mode. It's always an exciting treat to relive moments from the actual "Star Wars" movies, and when actually succeeding as the Rebels in destroying the Death Star, actually seeing the massive space station blow up is a very rewarding sight. However, the problems of this game mode are set in the balance of it. It seems as though the Imperials always have an advantage in this game mode; this is mostly due to the fact that, if the Imperials win a single phase, they win the entire game. In the second phase, in which the Rebels escort R2-D2, it's very easy to stop R2-D2 from moving, and if R2-D2 does not reach his destination in time, the Rebels will lose. In addition to this, the game mostly consists of flying – a feature that not many "Battlefront" players are fond of – and the only other modes included in the DLC – Blast and Fighter Squadron – don't add very much variety to the DLC pack overall.

The actual weapons included in the DLC are also extremely game-breaking. Both the TL-50 Heavy Repeater blaster and Bryar Pistol come with an extremely strong secondary fire that melts enemy soldiers with little to no effort. The Bryar Pistol's secondary fire in particular is even able to destroy Imperial vehicles in just a few shots, making it the most popular weapon in modes that include vehicles. This also creates frustration for players who drive vehicles. This could, in the long run, destroy the overall balance of the game.

The Death Star DLC is decent, but probably the most disappointing one so far. Its lack of variety in the modes and extremely powerful weapons make the DLC feel less like an expansion and more like a general update—and a rushed one at that—than anything else.

Upcoming Local Events

Dade City:
Scream-a-Geddon
Date:
9/30-11/5 7:30PM-1:00AM
Location:
27839 Saint Joe Rd.
Dade City, FL 33525
Contact:
813-452-5412
Price:
$19.95 - $32.95 varying by day
Description:
Scream-a-Geddon features six haunted attractions, including a novelty in the haunted house scene: an interactive haunted house where those who attend have the chance to be kidnapped and taken into hidden rooms in the attraction, making it a much more spontaneous and terrifying experience. The event also features a horror-themed hayride as well as a carnival midway where people can play games, get food, and relax in between the scares.

Sports

Volleyball Continues their Winning Streak

By Niclas Bez
Contributing Writer

The Women of the Saint Leo University Volleyball team won their third straight win last weekend, beating Rollins in a thrilling match on the night of Sept. 23 before beating Embry-Riddle on the afternoon of Sept. 24. With the home court advantage and many Saint Leo Fans in the gym, the Lions seemed unstoppable and determined to win.

The win against the University of Tampa was a special one. Tampa's Volleyball team is a two-time National Champion and currently ranks as number sixteen in the Nation. Their last National title was in Louisville, Kentucky two years ago. In last year's season, they slightly lost in the NCAA South Regional Tournament against Florida Southern.

"The win over Tampa is huge for us because it was only the second time in Saint Leo history. We are really excited to see what else we can do. We have so many players that can play every position. Every single person on this team has so much to contribute to this win tonight," said Britt Sederholm, junior.

"I was really happy with the effort tonight. We had two good sets at the beginning, but then came in a little flat in the third. Then we realized it is just one game at a time and we bounced back nicely in the fourth set," said head coach Sam Cibrone.

Sederholm is one of the key players this season with appearances in eleven out of twelve games. She scored 97 "kills" this season, while having fourteen assists. With an average of 2.62 points per set she is the second most scoring Lion after Hope Lemon with an average of almost four points per set.

Photo courtesy of Saint Leo Athletics

Jamee Townsend, starting libero and a senior, was second amongst the dig scores, surpassed only by Rebecca Wilson from Rollins.

During the Saint Leo white out game against Rollins, the Lions started off with a winning set, but then fell short against a strong Rollins offensive, taking the second and third set. In the fourth set, the Lions came back with a strong performance by Sophomore Avery Bradshaw, who scored thirteen points.

In the fifth and final set the Lions quickly took the lead before the Rollins Tars came back. Sederholm brought back the Lions and they did not give their lead back until they sealed the win.

The Lions saw a career high performance by Bradshaw scoring sixteen points, while having eight digs. Defensively, Jamee Townsend tailed 26 digs, which puts her only 27 digs away from her 1,000 career digs.

Townsend, a senior from Plant City, FL, has been a stand-out player for the Lions. She recently earned her second Sunshine State Conference Defensive Player of the Week award after having a massive performance in the game against Tampa. She had a match-best nineteen digs and is leading the SSC with an average of 5.14 digs per set.

However, in the game against Embry Riddle, someone else had a standout performance. Junior setter Maddy Powell put on a show by having 25 assists, while having ten digs and scoring nine points. The Lions clearly dominated the match by winning all three sets that saved them their third consecutive win.

The Team now has a season score of 8-4, while being unbeaten on their home court. Next up, they face four more conference team before having a three day tournament with other South Regional teams.

Upcoming Games For the Week of 9/30/16 - 10/7/16

M Cross Country

10/1: @ Lehigh Univ. 11:00 am
10/8: Vs Saint Leo National 8:00 am

W Cross Country

10/1: @ Lehigh Univ. 11:45 am
10/8: Vs Saint Leo National 9:15 am

Volleyball

10/1: @ Florida Tech 4:00 pm
10/7: Vs Barry 7:00 pm
10/8: Vs Lynn 4:00 pm

M Soccer

10/1: @ West Fla. 12:30 pm
10/5: @ Palm Beach Atlantic 7:00 pm
10/8: @ Nova Southeast 7:00 pm

W Soccer

10/2: Vs Valdosta St. 1:00 pm
10/5: Vs Palm Beach Atlantic 7:00 pm
10/8: Vs Nova Southeast 7:00 pm

M Golf

10/3: Vs Division II Rounds 1 & 2 @ Kissimmee, FL
10/4: Vs Division II Rounds Final @ Kissimmee, FL

Online:

Women's Golf

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

The Women's Golf team started their season at the University of Indianapolis Invitational. The girls took fifth place at the event and have more games scheduled for the season.

Photo courtesy of Saint Leo Athletics

Britt Sederholm, outside hitter and a junior, was an integral part to the Lions winning the last and fifth set of the game.

Photo from @saintleovb

The Women's Volleyball team has had a tremendous winning streak that is hoped to continue on into future games.